

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of all claims remaining of record, as presently amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 as originally and previously presented are pending in the application.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 8-11 and 27-30 would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten in an independent form including limitations of base and intervening claims.

By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 7 and 19 are amended above so as to give greater emphasis to some of the novel and patentable features set forth in these claims. Claim 19 has also been rewritten in independent form to obviate the Examiner's objection under 37 CFR §1.75(c). All amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter is added by their entry.

The 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) Rejection:

The rejection of claims 1-7, 12-26 and 31-37 under 35 U. S. C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,238,291 to Fujimoto et al. is respectfully traversed.

The Fujimoto et al. '291 patent is directed toward a TV game machine arrangement that is fundamentally different from applicant's claimed invention at least because Fujimoto et al.'s gaming environment is primarily concerned with bi-directionally communicating game information between multiple game players each of who has a separate game display screen/device and, unlike applicant's claimed game system, does not teach or disclose a method, arrangement or apparatus capable of relating the spatial position of one or more game objects/characters based on *a virtual positional relationship between game spaces* displayed on different display devices.

In the Fujimoto et al. '291 patent, separate displays are used for displaying multi-player card games and multi-player games like mahjong wherein each player uses game pieces/cards in a common playing field revealed to all players but also retains at least some game pieces/cards which remain confidential. Images for a common playing field are displayed on a main display (i.e., a TV monitor) and images of each player's confidential hand are displayed on individual portable game machine displays. The images/objects displayed on the main display are not based on any positional relationship within a virtual game space to the images/objects displayed on the individual portable game machine displays or vice versa. If several display devices were viewed together, they would not provide any visual indication of a spatial positional/relationship between an object that is displayed on one of the display devices and a related object/artifact displayed that is displayed on a second display device. For example, in Fujimoto et al.'s game system the cards displayed on main display (600), showing a common playing field for four card players, bear no spatial or positional relationship within a virtual game space to the cards of an individual card player's hand that are shown on the displays (401) of the associated portable game devices (400).

In particular, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion by Fujimoto et al. to provide a game system that uses separate displays to respectively display first and second game spaces in a manner wherein a related image of an object located within the first game space is caused to be displayed on a second display device "*based on a virtual positional relationship between the first game space and the second game space*", as set forth, for example, in applicant's independent claims 1, 19 and 20. Consequently, the Fujimoto et al. '291 patent does not anticipate applicants independent claims 1, 19 and 20 at least because it does not disclose every

element of the claimed invention. See *Lewmar Marine, Inc. v. Bariant, Inc.*, 3 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1766 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Likewise, in regard to the rejection of applicant's dependent claims 2-7, 12-18, 21-26 and 31-37 as allegedly being anticipated by the Fujimoto et al. '291 patent, these claims include the elements of independent claims 1, 19 and 20 from which they depend and are therefore patentably distinct over Fujimoto et al. for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

In view of the Applicants' forgoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully solicited. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' representatives at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



William G. Niessen

Reg. No. 29,683

WGN:
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100